

43 ways to bring luck out of hiding

If you want to get lucky, you've got to give luck a fair chance.

by Ed Wandtke

■ During this past convention season, I heard many green industry company owners speak about how lucky another company in their same market has been. Lucky because of significant profitability, high company recognition, great image or community recognition.

Are you a lucky person? How does luck happen? Can you be the beneficiary of luck? Or is luck just something that happens to other people?

For many owners, luck means being willing to try something new because it appears to be what customers say they want. For others, it may mean hearing about an idea that is working in another market, and then trying it. To other owners, it may be listening to, and then trying, the ideas of some adventurous person.

Taking a chance on something new or trying out another person's idea may be a way of finding luck. Try doing something different! If you are not trying something new every year, luck isn't being given a chance.

The following ideas are but some of the ways you can get out of the rut of boredom or repetition and into a new direction for your future. Luck can happen if you give it a chance.

1) Make decisions faster. The more you make, the better the chance of being right. Even if you are wrong, you can change your decision later.

2) Be impulsive. Try something new, even if you haven't examined all of its negative and positive consequences.

3) Start a new hobby, or reactivate an old hobby.

4) Wear a sport coat and tie to work. (Beware of employees who change their approach in dealing with you.)

5) Don't wear a sport coat and tie to work. Looking like one of your employees can improve relationships and informal communication.

6) Drive to work a different way for a while.

7) Go to the library today and select a

book to read. Finish it this week.

8) Spend a day with an industry consultant. It will seem like you've gone to school for a whole semester.

9) Visit an unusual place. Be adventurous. Desert, snow, mountain climbing, Grand Canyon, the Amazon River.

10) Take a vacation on a cruise ship.

11) Don't come into the office for two weeks.

12) Reorganize your business.

13) Give creativity a chance. Let others tell you how they wish you'd operate.

14) Don't listen to anyone. Trust your own instincts.

15) Listen to everyone. You never know where a good idea will come from.

16) Steal ideas! Try them and improve on them.



17) Team up with an unusual employee.

18) Start a new company training program.

19) Have an employee present a new training topic.

20) Pursue a failure. Procter & Gamble undertakes projects doomed to fail.

21) Make a new friend.

22) Evaluate old friends and acquaintances.

23) Share your company's revenue performance and/or "inside" information with employees.

24) Attend a business management seminar this year.

25) Spend half of your time with non-

employees. Vendors and distributors are a great source of information.

26) Spend half of your outside time with radicals, visionaries and other non-conformists.

27) Change your duties. Make someone else important.

28) Encourage ingenuity. Let employees set their own work performance criteria for a week.

29) Have a topsy-turvy day. Switch jobs for a day. Allow others to make one change in new position.

30) Activate curiosity. Have a hide-and-seek day for your employees. Use customers, personnel, company data, community locations, colloquialisms, slang, synonyms, nicknames. Let employees compete to find the answers.

31) Spend a day talking to your four largest customers.

32) Take on a community service project.

33) Start a company "hall of fame" for outstanding performances.

34) Vary your diet. Eat a different cereal each day.

35) Take your shoes off when at your desk.

36) Make coffee, or bring in donuts for all the employees.

37) Want to become creative. Go to a park and let your mind work creatively. It is difficult to get creative behind a desk or in familiar surroundings.

38) Avoid being average in all things.

39) Be the first to work in

the morning.

40) Come to work late.

41) Use your computer for all of the tasks one day.

42) Take a computer course.

43) Get a feel for the real workers at your company. Talk and work with various employees during the next week to see what they are doing, why they are doing it, and what is on their minds.

—The author is a principle at Wandtke & Associates Management Consultants, 2586 Oakstone Rd., Columbus, OH 43231. For more information, phone (614) 891-3111.